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ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION APPROVES
FORT POINT CHANNEL HARBOR PLAN

Plan ensures public access, promotes revival of key Hub waterfront

Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Herzfelder today approved the City of Boston's Fort Point Channel Phase II Municipal Harbor Plan, clearing the way for a major redevelopment along Fort Point Channel. The plan establishes a framework for making the channel a public destination and ensures planning for integrated public access along the waterfront. The City of Boston advanced the harbor plan through its development and planning arm, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

"I am pleased that we were able to strike the right balance between private development and public access for Fort Point Channel," said Herzfelder. "This plan will reactivate a critical part of the Boston waterfront and offer high-quality public destinations that support dynamic, year-round public uses of the channel area."

The BRA's plan centers on implementing the City's Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan and a proposal by Equity Office Properties to develop a 22-story, 500,000-square-foot mixed-use building for the Russia Wharf property on Fort Point Channel. The proposed redevelopment includes residential space, a hotel, and pledges to preserve the exteriors of three historic buildings.

"This plan will set in motion the redevelopment and revitalization of the historic Russia Wharf buildings into a mixed-use development, creating a vibrant and active year-round property that will bring life to the Fort Point Channel and to the future Rose Kennedy Greenway," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

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Secretary Herzfelder's action approves elements of the Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan, a public-private blueprint developed by the BRA and abutter groups to transform the historically industrial waters of Fort Point into a vibrant public destination. To support the activation plan the Secretary's approval requires Russia Wharf to contribute \$500,000 to the final design and construction of the Children's Museum Park and an additional \$1,650,000 to support other projects identified in the activation plan. The plan requires Equity Office Properties to provide public space for a range of retail and entertainment destinations.

The Secretary's approval also sets enforceable conditions used by the Department of Environmental Protection in licensing waterfront projects under the waterways regulations of Chapter 91. The plan approves a redevelopment at Russia Wharf that is taller than what would normally be allowed under Chapter 91, on the condition that the project provide enhancements to public access along the project and channel waterfronts.

Approval of the Fort Point Channel Phase II Municipal Harbor Plan defers consideration of the United States Postal Service sorting facility until the city completes master planning for that section of the Fort Point Channel area.

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